

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/724,170

Applicant(s)

CAUDILL ET AL.

Examiner

DENNIS MYINT

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2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/17/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 81-99.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/01/2003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 09/05/2008
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 81-99 are pending in this application.
2. Claims 81, 87, and 93 are independent claims.
3. Applicant's submission of Amendment to the Specification of the instant application, filed on June 17, 2008, has been considered and entered.
4. In light of the amendments made to the specification, objection to the specification made in the prior office is hereby withdrawn.
5. In light of the applicant's explanation regarding the objection to duplicated claims in the prior office action, said objection is hereby withdrawn.

Drawings

6. Drawings, filed on December 1, 2003, are accepted.

Specification

7. Specification, filed on December 1, 2003, is considered and accepted. Amendment to the specification, filed on June 17, 2008, has been considered and entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 81-99 are allowed.
9. Examiner interprets "computer readable media" as recited in the claims as hardware storage device such as CD-ROM, Hard Drive, RAM, ROM, or Floppy

Drive.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter.

As per claim 81, the prior art alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of steps as recited in the claim. Maarek et al. (hereinafter "Maarek", "Ephemeral Document Clustering for Web Applications", IBM Research Report, RJ 10186, and April 2000) in view of Call (hereinafter "Call", U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0143521) does not teach the limitation:

"identifying at least one predicate and argument in said set of document predicate structures by a predicate key that is an integer representation;
estimating conceptual nearness of two of said document predicate structures in said set of document predicate structures by subtracting corresponding ones of said predicate keys".

The dependent claims of claim 81, being definite, further limiting and fully enabled by the specification are also allowed.

As per claim 87, the prior art alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of steps as recited in the claim. Maarek in view of Call does not teach the limitation:

"identifying at least one predicate in said set of document predicate structures by a predicate key that is an integer representation;
estimating conceptual nearness of two of said document predicate

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structures in said set of document predicate structures by subtracting corresponding ones of said predicate keys".

The dependent claims of claim 87, being definite, further limiting and fully enabled by the specification are also allowed.

As per claim 93, the prior art alone or in combination, does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of steps as recited in the claim. Maarek in view of Call does not teach the limitation:

"determining each predicate structure of one or more predicate structures M in each document of the set of documents, said M predicate structures including a predicate and at least one argument;

identifying the predicate and at least one argument in each of M predicate structures by a predicate key that is an integer representation".

The dependent claims of claim 93, being definite, further limiting and fully enabled by the specification are also allowed.

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Contact Information

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis Myint whose telephone number is (571) 272-5629. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:30PM Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-5629.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/dennis myint/
Dennis Myint
Examiner
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/John Breene/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2162